
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathleen Ferguson RN, BScN, RNFA, CPN(C), ORNAC incoming President is the Manager of OR/Perioperative Services at St. Martha's Regional Hospital in Antigonish NS and also works as an RN First Assistant. She is a past member of the ORNAC Standards Committee and past Chair of the Nominations Committee.

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**2017 ORNAC National
Harnessing our Power
April 30 – May 4, 2017
#knowledgeispower2017**

Pillar Chair for the National Conference Planning committee, Kim McLennan-Robbins, and myself recently conducted a site visit to Niagara Falls, ON, in preparation for the ORNAC National Conference, Harnessing our Power, taking place April 30 to May 4, 2017. When we arrived I was struck by the magnificent beauty and power of the falls. I found the area to be exciting and uplifting and I think it is a very fitting place to bring perioperative registered nurses and associates together for this inspirational and empowering event.

For those of you who have not yet had the chance to visit this Canadian city, at the famous waterfalls of the same name, it is located on the Niagara River's western shore and overlooks the Horseshoe Falls (the most expansive section of the falls). Its site on the Niagara River's western shore overlooks the Horseshoe Falls, the cascades' most expansive section, and visitors can also take elevators to a lower (and wetter) vantage point. The riverbank features a promenade and the 520 foot-high Skylon Tower also features an observation deck. The city is linked with the US by the Rainbow Bridge.

Since 1759 the forces of the Niagara River have been harnessed, in some manner, for the advantage and advancement of mankind. Daniel Joncairs was the first recorded person to have harnessed a very small portion of the power of Niagara. He dug a narrow ditch above the falls on the American

side and was able to draw enough water from the river to turn a waterwheel to power a small sawmill. Prior to this the power of Niagara was being used for nothing more than washing. Today Niagara Falls remains an immense source of hydro-electric power.

The actions, behaviours, and characteristics of each nurse can contribute to, or diminish, the collective power of perioperative nurses within our practice, the healthcare system, and our professional association. We too need to harness our strength, in some manner, for the advantage and advancement of perioperative nurses, our patients, and ORNAC. Working together we can energize each other and help create new ways of tackling our problems and challenges.

#knowledgeispower2017. Through the development of an educational program, that is based on your feedback and input, ORNAC will host an innovative learning experience designed to expand the knowledge of all delegates. Register today at www.ORNAC.ca to be a part of this exciting event when the power of Niagara Falls will provide the backdrop for networking, learning, and having fun!

I look forward to meeting you there! 🍁

Cathleen Ferguson